



## Ridgemount Quarries Update

Production at the Ridgemount Quarries has been underway most of the winter and the 2015 season looks to be a good one, according to superintendent Mark Harmsworth. A new customer base for the quarries since last fall has been ready mix concrete plants in the Niagara Peninsula.

A change at Ridgemount has been the retirement at the end of March 2015 of loader operator Vic Paré. Vic's tenure at the quarries spanned nearly 40 years and he will be missed by his fellow employees. Taking over Vic's job is Keith White, who joins the aggregate division after having worked as a shipper loader at Walker Environmental's compost operations in Thorold.



The team at Walker Aggregates wishes Vic Paré all the best in his retirement.

## Helping Bring Back the Badgers

As part of its commitment to protecting the natural environment, Walker Aggregates is exploring ways to adapt its plans for the Ridgemount Quarries to provide for habitat for the American badger.

The badger is listed as an endangered species in Canada and this province, with only an estimated 200 badgers left in Ontario. Most live along the north shore of Lake Erie.

For this reason, Walker has provided financial support to the Ontario Badger Recovery Team in its efforts to provide a comprehensive overview of known habitat needs, ecology, threats and knowledge gaps. In recognition of its ongoing work with the badger team, the company received the 2013 Industry Leadership Award from the Ontario Species at Risk Advisory Committee.

"Once the Ridgemount quarries are mined out, the plan is for them to become a lake," says Walker Aggregates operations manager Frank Kielbowich. "We're looking at how we can adapt our rehabilitation plan and site plan to also provide habitat for badgers."

## Walker Gives Back to Niagara

The Walker family and Walker Industries Holdings Limited have recently made two major donations to benefit the Niagara area. One is a gift of \$1.2 million to support the development of the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre at Niagara College, and the other is a donation of \$50,000 to Habitat for Humanity Niagara.

"All of us at Niagara College are extremely grateful to the Walker family and Walker Industries for their generosity," said Niagara College president Dan Patterson. "While their gift supports Niagara College, it's also an important investment in innovation and economic development in the Niagara region. It's a true cause for celebration."

In recognition of Walker's generosity, the new centre will be named the Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre. It will provide local manufacturers with access to much-needed facilities, equipment and technical expertise.

"On behalf of our family and our employees, we are incredibly proud to invest in Niagara College through its Achieving Dreams Campaign," says Sheila (Walker) Bonapace, one of the Walker Industries' shareholders. "For businesses like ours, that depend on skilled workers that our college educates and trains, it's important that we support this campaign."

The Habitat for Humanity Gift is part of a \$200,000 donation over this year and next to four affiliates of Habitat for Humanity in Ontario – in Niagara, Halton, South Georgian Bay and Windsor-Essex. These are among the regions in Ontario where Walker's operations are located.

"The Walker family, the company and its employees are committed to making a difference in the communities where we do business," Sheila says. "We continually look to find ways to improve the social and environmental conditions in these communities, and are so pleased to support Habitat for Humanity in helping families in need to purchase their own homes."



Photo by Richard Klarfki



# Where the Rock Goes

## Lewis Street Reconstruction

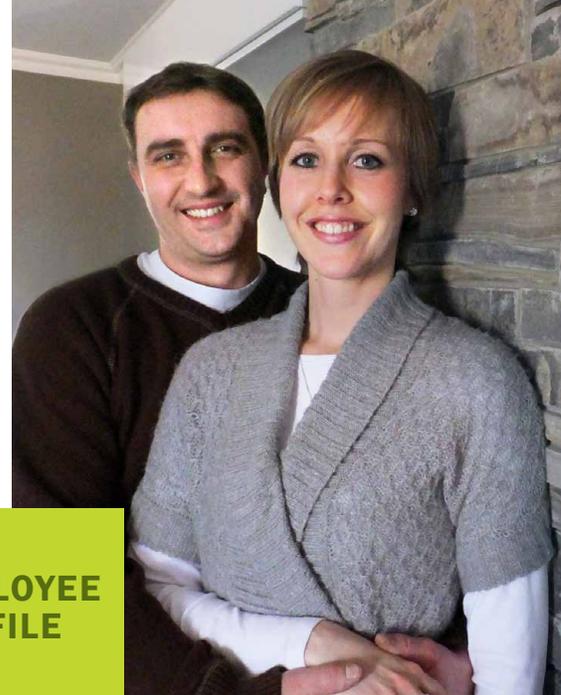
Approximately 10,000 tonnes of aggregate from the Ridgemount Quarries is being used for the complete reconstruction of Lewis Street in Fort Erie, from Niagara Boulevard to Central Avenue. The project includes replacing underground services and road surfacing.

## Making Things “Straight and Shiny”

After struggling with English classes in high school Ryan Pearson knew he wasn’t cut out for university. He did take an auto body class while at school and loved it. He bought a car that needed a paint job and found he was good at “hands-on” body work. That’s what he does now in the paint shop at Walker Aggregates’ Ridgemount Quarries.

“I make vehicles and equipment straight and shiny,” he says. Ryan’s job for Walker is mostly taking new equipment and painting it in the company’s blue and yellow colours, although he does repair the odd dent in a vehicle or piece of equipment.

### EMPLOYEE PROFILE



The paint shop also does contract work for other companies. “We’ll get a worn and beat up loader, excavator or fork lift and make it look brand new,” he says.

Ryan’s first job was as an apprentice at a car dealership in Welland. He has been with Walker for six years.

“It’s a good atmosphere and I enjoy it here,” he says. “Nobody bothers you if you do your job.”

In his spare time, Ryan builds hot rods in his garage at home in Welland. He also

Ryan is grateful to have been able to help his wife Amanda through her treatment for breast cancer.

spends a lot of leisure time with his wife, Amanda, who is a financial planner in St. Catharines.

Two years ago, Amanda was battling an aggressive form of breast cancer and Walker gave Ryan a three-month leave to take care of her. “It was awesome,” he says of the time he had to spend with Amanda. “She’s the most important person in my life, and caring for her made me a better person.”



## An Industry Achievement Award

The Ridgemount Quarries have won a Community Relations Award from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA). The award recognizes good neighbourly activities, community involvement, media relations, education and industry awareness.

The Ridgemount Quarries were recognized for community relations – such as making the quarries available for military operations and paleontological explorations – support for local organizations, efforts to reduce noise and the effects of blasting, and regular communications through The RidgeRock newsletter.

The awards review panel was comprised of judges including representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ducks Unlimited, associate members of the OSSGA and Mayor Dennis Lever of Puslinch Township.

Photo at left: Walker Aggregates operations manager Frank Kielbowich accepts the OSSGA Community Relations Award from association president James Gordon.



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